The Mother Church

BY JOSEPH ARMSTRONG

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THE MOTHER CHURCH

Ready for Dedication

The Mother Church

A History of the Building of the Original Edifice of The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts

By JOSEPH ARMSTRONG

BOSTON
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PREFACE

IN this brief narrative of the erection of the original edifice of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, no attempt is made to elaborate the subject, or to treat of matters that may be intimately connected with the history of the church organization and may indirectly concern the structure, but do not bear directly on the details of its erection.

The writer's aim is simply to state the facts as he knows them, and little effort is made to point out the many beautiful lessons taught and illustrated by these experiences. It seems desirable to preserve a record of at least a few of the trials, toils, and triumphs of this laborious effort, not only for the benefit of this age, but for the generations to come, which may be able to see more fully than we now can the meaning of this demonstration, and to realize that in the building of this church a Christian endeavor was successful.

The Board of Directors, who for more than a year were burdened with the heavy care and responsibility of erecting the edifice, can never forget nor cease to thank God for the wise guidance, the helpful words,

and the loving care of our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy. She alone, God's chosen and anointed one, deserves the credit of this mighty victory for Mind's supremacy; for it was her warning call and loving counsel that led on to success in the face of such seeming odds. Her nearness to the great heart of Love endowed her with power from on high before which every obstacle vanished.

The writer also wishes to thank our dear Leader for the privilege of publishing in this book facsimiles of two of her beautiful letters to the Directors.

It is to be hoped the future will also give credit to those friends who, like obedient children, left all at the mother's call, and came to relieve the heavily burdened ones. We know our heavenly Father always will reward in due season.

To those whose donations have paid for this beautiful building, standing as a testimonial of love for her through whom the blessing of Christian Science has come, the writer would say: Be your contribution counted in thousands of dollars, or in single pennies, your reward is as sure as your existence.

JOSEPH ARMSTRONG

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LETTERS

From Mary Baker Eddy to Joseph Armstrong

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Concord, N. H.,.....

GIVE this [manuscript] to Miss——to make it perfectly grammatical. I have not the time to read it all and it needs careful examination.

It [your manuscript] is prosaic in description, but to builders may prove interesting. Your detailed account is wonderful because of many things, your moral well drawn.

M. B. EDDY.

N.B. Uniformity must be preserved in the title you mainly give to me.

You may insert my letters that you have chosen.

M. B. E.

Pleasant View
Concord, N. H., June 5, 1897

My beloved Student:

I THANK you for the interesting, finely gotten-up volume—"The Mother Church." I enclose check for one dozen, in cloth. I want them to give away to people that the book will interest. Again thanking you more than all, for your faithful performance of your duties to which you alone were appointed by me in building The Mother Church.

To read the dear book is with feelings of an old soldier to fight anew the old battles.

With love, mother,

MARY BAKER EDDY.

N.B. Please fill out the check. I leave it blank for you to add the price on one dozen of "The Mother Church," in cloth.

THE MOTHER CHURCH

THE FOUNDATION

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 CORINTHIANS iii. 11.

N September, 1893, Mary Baker Eddy, Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, advised the Directors of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, to lay the foundation for a church building the following October.

At this point the history of our present structure begins; but in order to describe accurately the condition of affairs at the time, it may be well to retrace briefly certain previous steps.

Our teacher had long been hoping for a church edifice in Boston, and for several years her students had been making efforts to fulfill her hope. In 1887–8 about four thousand dollars were contributed toward a building fund and a site was bought; but as the students could give only a small part of the price, the remainder was secured by a mortgage. This they were unable to pay when it became due,

and the lot was sold by foreclosure to Mrs. Eddy. She immediately conveyed it to Ira O. Knapp, C.S.D., for the use of the church, a board of trustees being appointed to care for it.

The sum of about thirty thousand dollars was soon raised, enough to warrant those trustees in beginning the work; but they were unwilling to build unless the church, which had been disorganized at Mrs. Eddy's request, was reorganized under the laws of Massachusetts.

Mrs. Eddy then took the lot again into her own possession, and deeded it, in September, 1892, to four of her students, also constituting them The Christian Science Board of Directors. This Board was to hold the land in trust for the whole body of Christian Scientists, a law having been discovered which permitted this to be done. The new deed required the Directors to erect a church edifice within five years at a cost of not less than fifty thousand dollars; and it was upon them, Ira O. Knapp, William B. Johnson, Joseph Armstrong, and Stephen A. Chase, that the responsibility of erecting the building rested.

The money received by the first board of trustees was returned to the donors; and while this transfer was going on and the money was flowing back again into the treasury, the newly constituted Board of Directors was soliciting designs for the structure.

Several Boston architects drew plans for a brick building, one of these designs being more satisfactory than the others because it utilized the entire ground,—a result especially desired. On later consideration it seemed more appropriate to build the church of granite from New Hampshire, the native state and present home of the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science; so the architects again made drawings, this time for a stone building. The architect who had excelled before once more presented the most acceptable plan, which not only covered the whole lot, but was the most beautiful in design. This lot being on a corner, and shaped somewhat like a kite, was thought to be awkwardly formed for a church site until this draft was seen, when it was at once acknowledged that the land could hardly be better adapted to our purpose.

This was the state of affairs when the Directors

were advised to lay the foundation. Our Leader doubtless perceived the need of immediate action; for, although our fund now amounted to about forty thousand dollars, receipts had almost ceased, the students either thinking that enough had been already raised, or else fearing on account of the former experience that the money might be lost or otherwise fail of its purpose.

In obtaining estimates from builders, the Directors had already learned that, during the delay occasioned by hesitation over the land title, additional laws had been enacted, July 16, 1892, requiring such buildings to be fireproof; consequently, that to build a church now would cost a third more than before that date.

The Directors found themselves in a dilemma. On one side was the urgent need of beginning to build, while on the other hand they were confronted by lack of material means. If they decided to use brick, the new laws would increase the cost by many thousands of dollars more than had been as yet contributed, while stone would be even more expensive. According to city ordinances, plans must be muni-

cipally approved before a building permit could be issued; so the Directors must accept a design determining the cost of the completed building before they could obtain a permit or lay the foundation.

The deed of gift did not allow the property to be mortgaged. More money would doubtless be received while the work was going on; but who could say how much? With less than fifty thousand dollars on hand, how could the Directors incur so great a risk as to accept such expensive plans, in order to obtain a permit from the city? The advice from Mrs. Eddy to lay the foundation in October was, however, of greater importance than any other consideration; and those to whom the responsibility was entrusted finally decided to choose the most desirable plan and go forward,—leaving the result with God.

This decision was reached the last of September, and then the permit was anxiously desired so that work might be begun on the foundation; but much was yet to be done. The architect had furnished only the outlines of the roof, and it was found that a detailed plan of the iron or steel framework must

be presented for the city engineer's inspection. To obtain the needful plan, estimates must be solicited for this part of the building. An estimate being accepted, the contractor would then make his own exact drawings.

The Directors were dissatisfied with the estimates submitted; but, in order to get the contractor's plan and the permit, they were compelled to make an immediate award of the roof contract. The lowest bid was accepted; but the contractor, for reasons unnecessary to relate, refused to keep his agreement or to submit specifications to the city. After delays of one kind and another, the official agreed to waive this point for future consideration; and late in October he granted the building permit.

In this experience regarding the roof may be recognized the hand of divine Love, guiding and protecting those who trust Him. Human law would have forced the Directors to obligate themselves for an expensive roof before any provision had been made for the foundation or for the walls on which the roof was to rest.

It may be well to mention here what was rather

unusual, that the Directors, although still retaining the services of the architect, had become sole owners of his plans. It had been at first arranged that he should receive a percentage on the cost of building, one half payable on the bestowal of the contract, and the other when the church was completed. Before any contract was arranged, the architect desired an advance payment; and the result was that the Directors bought his plans outright, obtaining a bill of sale.

Such details, which may seem insignificant, had a greater influence on the erection of the church than may appear on the surface; and the writer, knowing their latent import, could not feel that his account would be complete if they were not noted.

The contracts for excavation, pile driving, and stone foundations were signed on October 19, 1893. The Charles River once overflowed much of the Back Bay region where the church lot is situated; and, so near the harbor, the water was affected by even the lowest tides. Foundation piles for building had to be driven down far enough to remain permanently under water, so as to be unaffected by

atmospheric influences. It was at first thought that our piling must be driven eighteen or twenty feet below the foundation grade, but hard ground was struck much nearer the surface. A gentleman familiar with Back Bay before the land was filled in, states that our site was part of a point which was not always submerged. Be that as it may, solid bottom was found on which the piles could rest, thus insuring a firm foundation.

The first stone was laid Wednesday, November 8, 1893, and when the foundation wall was finished, it was carefully covered with boards for protection during the winter.

This demonstration, an actual beginning, inspired Christian Science workers in the field with such confidence and energy that money once more began to flow into the treasurer's hands.

THE GREAT CONTRACT

The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build. NEHEMIAH ii. 20.

I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ISAIAH lxi. 8.

S soon as arrangements had been completed for the foundation, Mrs. Eddy recommended that preparations be made for beginning work on the church itself early in the ensuing spring, and that the work be finished in the same year, 1894.

Money was coming in all the time, and there might be thirty thousand dollars left after the payments were made for the foundation; but what was this with which to contract for such a building as was desired? The Directors, however, were beginning to learn that "all things are possible with God," though His ways are not man's ways. They knew that God was speaking through their teacher, and would guide them in the right direction, if they were willing to follow obediently. With scarcely one third of the needful money on hand, and debt forbidden, it seemed unreasonable to think of contracting for so

costly a building; but the voice of Truth was imperative, and something must be done.

After careful and prayerful consideration of the problem many days and nights, the Directors decided that they might begin and build at least the walls.

Several of the best known builders in the city were asked for estimates; but many of them refused, making it difficult for the Directors to select the most reliable parties for so important an undertaking. Responsible New Hampshire builders were found, however, who offered to erect the brick and stone walls, with the necessary iron or steel beams, for a reasonable amount; yet the price was much greater than the present fund. To promise a dollar beyond the assets would be a forfeiture of the land title; and the Directors had already made it a rule to base no calculations on pledges or promises of money, but to act only on what was in their possession.

Mrs. Eddy had not been informed of the situation, nor of the mental struggle it was causing the Directors, yet a letter from her solved the whole problem. She suggested that a contract might be

Jesus with the Woman of Samaria

made for the walls, which would include a provision giving the Directors a right to stop the work at any time after the masonry had risen above the level of the auditorium floor; that is, of course, if parties could be found who would enter into such an unusual arrangement. It seemed wise to have but one contract for this part of the work.

The New Hampshire men were found perfectly willing to enter into the conditional agreement, and the papers were signed, December 6, 1893, by the four Directors on one side and on the other side by three men representing as many firms, which were not only to build the walls, but to furnish brick, iron, and the gray and pink granite. Thus it reads:

> The party of the second part [the Directors] to have the privilege to stop the work, at any point above the level of the audience-room floor, on four weeks' notice; and the work to be resumed on four weeks' notice, provided that not over one year shall intervene between the time of stopping and starting the same; and, if not stopped by the party of the second part, said contract shall be finished on or before August first, 1894.

The document further stipulated that the con-

tractors had until September to finish the tower, from a point ten feet above the walls of the main building. Eighty per cent of the work actually completed was to be paid for at the end of each month; and the remaining twenty per cent when the work was finally completed "to the satisfaction of the Directors." This last clause was somewhat out of the ordinary form, which requires the approval of the architect alone.

Before a single layer was begun on the walls, Mrs. Eddy, consulting only with infinite Mind, quietly wrote to certain students, offering them the privilege of contributing a thousand dollars each to the building fund. In response to this offer, forty-four thousand dollars were added to our supply, which, together with what had been coming in as usual, assured the contractors that they could go on with the work to completion.

THE IRON QUESTION AND THE CORNER STONE

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. PSALM CXXVII. 1.

Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. MATTHEW XVI. 18.

MARCH began with excellent weather for wall building; but, to the Directors' surprise, the work was not begun. A visit of inquiry to Concord and Woodsville, New Hampshire, where the contractors resided, brought an assurance that all was right, and labor would begin at once. April came, however, and nothing had been accomplished; not even the necessary municipal permit had been obtained for the use of the street during the process of building.

The contractors were then summoned to Boston, and the reason of the delay was discovered to be a deadlock between the builders and the firm from which they expected to buy the iron or steel beams. The Directors had been informed that the metal was bought in December, and they never dreamed of trouble in this direction. Now it appeared that the

proposed purchase had never been completed because of a difference of opinion between architect and dealer as to the amount of iron called for by the plans. On the insistence of the Directors, an agreement was reached, and part of the iron was promised in ten days, the rest to follow at intervals sufficient to prevent further delay in building.

Mrs. Eddy had already been asking when the Directors would be ready to lay the corner stone; but they were unable to answer the question, for as yet only a small quantity of stone had been delivered.

One of the contractors remained in Boston to commence operations, and the next point to be gained was to obtain a permit from the city for the use of the street while building. The fact that he did not live in the state made the matter somewhat troublesome, for he must give bond to provide for any possible cases of accident, and must have a resident bondsman. This was adjusted satisfactorily, the permit at last gained, the exact lines of the building lot located by a surveyor, and the first stone of the church wall laid April 24.

The Raising of Jairus' Daughter

The first supply of iron from Pennsylvania did not arrive when promised, and at nearly the same time the Directors were advised to fix upon May 1 as the date for laying the corner stone.

According to the design, this stone was to rest in the wall over an arch which must first be spanned by four heavy curved iron beams. How were these beams to be obtained in time? Two plans were proposed: one, that a Director go to Pennsylvania, see that this indispensable iron was at once shipped, and follow it to its destination; the other, that the curved beams be bought in Boston, at the Directors' personal expense. Both suggestions were rejected on the grounds that a journey to Pennsylvania would interfere with the contracting manufacturers and to buy the iron at home would be to pay for it twice. Mrs. Eddy was consulted, and the date for laying the corner stone was postponed.

The pressure to go forward and do something became more imperative every day, while at the same time everything material claimed to discourage and hinder the Directors, "fears within and foes without." The stronger the demand the more im-

possible it seemed to obtain materials or to advance the work.

All this time, during the month of May, almost nothing could be done because no iron had arrived. Upon the foundation was to be built a twenty-inch brick wall faced with eight inches of gray granite. All that had been done up to this time, all that could be done until the beams were in place, was to lay the stone face and a part of its brick backing, leaving projecting bricks and iron bars with which to tie the whole together when the rest of the brick could be laid.

Several feet of this incomplete wall had been built when further counsel from Mrs. Eddy designated May 21, 1894, as the day for laying the corner stone.

To make sure that it was on hand when needed, the Directors had already sent for this stone, and it was now in the little wooden shanty put up as an office for the use of the contractors near the corner itself. The stone was to have been polished and engraved at the quarry but, not being quite ready when sent for, was finished on the church grounds. The

copper receptacle for memorial books and papers had also been provided, so that everything was in readiness except the wall where the stone must be laid.

To get the curved iron beams from Pennsylvania in accordance with the contract, for May 21, proved to be impossible, and it seemed unwise to postpone the date again; so the beams were ordered from a Boston firm which promised, as the best they could do, that the iron should be delivered by May 20.

Three days before the stone was to be placed, the Directors met at the Christian Science publishing house, then on Boylston Street, where the copper box was in readiness, and the following articles, wrapped separately in oiled silk, were put within it:

THE BIBLE, *in finest morocco binding.*

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES, by Mary Baker G. Eddy, *eighty-fourth edition, in the same size and binding as the copy of the Bible.*

Also, by the same author:

RETROSPECTION AND INTROSPECTION.

UNITY OF GOOD.

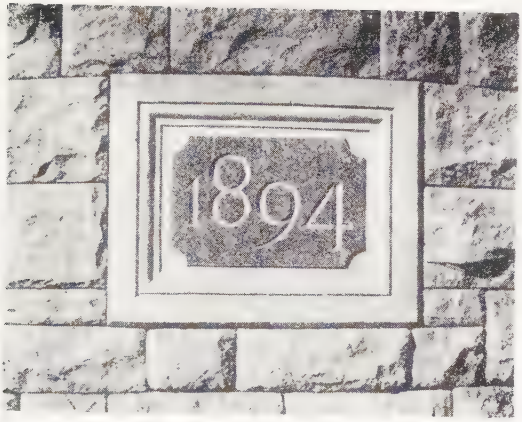
NO AND YES.

Rudimental Divine Science.
People's Idea of God.
Christian Healing.
Historical Sketch of Christian Science Mind-Healing.
Defence of Christian Science (*out of print, a copy being furnished by a student*).
Five Numbers of the Christian Science Series.
An Address, *in manuscript, written for the occasion.*

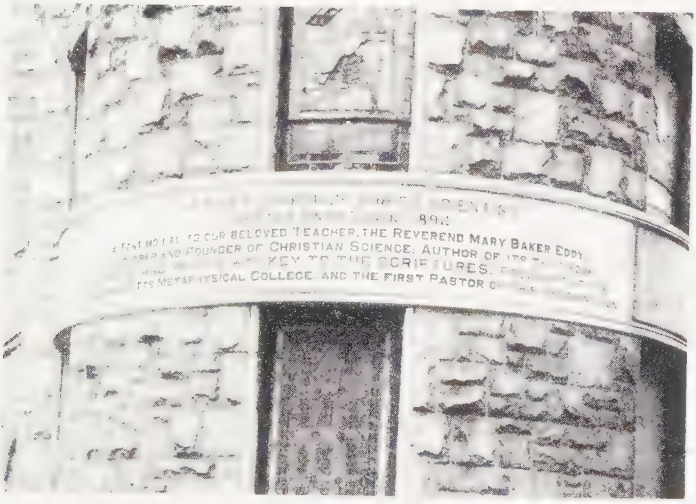
Besides these:

The Christian Science Journal, *June*, 1894.
The Christian Science Quarterly Bible Lessons, *for April, May, and June*, 1894.
Three Cards: *the first containing a list of the students who contributed one thousand dollars each to the building fund; the second, a grateful acknowledgment of the same by our Leader; the third, a list of the Board of Directors, written by Mrs. Eddy's own hand.*

The Directors took the box to the factory which had furnished it, where they saw it hermetically sealed, and then drove with it to the church site. It was about half-past five in the afternoon. The workmen were just leaving, and the carriage waited down the street till all but the superintendent had gone. Alone, the Directors entered the little shanty where



The Corner Stone


1894
TO OUR BELOVED TEACHER, THE REVEREND MARY BAKER EDDY
AND FOUNDER OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: AUTHOR OF ITS
KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES,
ITS METAPHYSICAL COLLEGE, AND THE FIRST PASTOR

The Inscription

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the stone lay, and put the sealed box in its resting place. A copy of Mrs. Eddy's address was read (the original being already in the box), the iron lid was fitted into the stone over the coffer, and the superintendent was called in to cement it firmly into place.

It had already been decided by the Directors that the stone with its valuable contents should not be out of their sight or that of some trusty individual until permanently placed in the wall. Accordingly, two young men, James A. Neal and Thomas W. Hatten, students of Mrs. Eddy's, had been chosen as watchers; and they remained in the shanty three stormy nights, while one of the Directors stayed there during the daytime. So was this precious stone guarded every moment.

These busy days went by, but still no iron came from Pennsylvania. Students were blaming those in charge for all delays, but suggested no remedy for the difficulties, while our contractors seemed utterly helpless. The Directors saw they must take the iron question into their own hands; and accordingly, on May 19, they sent one of their number to Pennsyl-

vania to remain until the iron, at least for the first floor, was shipped, and then to trace its course to Boston.

On his arrival, this Director found that nothing had been done at the mill; but when he explained to the proprietors what was wanted, they agreed to put all their forces on this job day and night and finish it at the earliest possible moment.

Monday morning, May 21, three of the Directors, the fourth being in Pennsylvania, met on the grounds. They found that the superintendent of the building had been called away for the day, a most unusual and unexpected thing, leaving in charge only a foreman who had but little idea of the plan of the work. It was declared impossible that the wall could be made ready that day.

The Directors were obliged to take charge of affairs themselves; and calling every man on the grounds to one point, they had the work begun of preparing the place for the corner stone. The long curved iron beams were slowly laid over the piers,—a difficult process because of the weight and shape of the beams,—and at last bolted securely together.

Then the wall was begun, and was almost finished when it was discovered that the stones fitted and shaped for the rounded corner were laid too far to one side for the ground plan; so it was necessary to take down the masonry and begin again.

Finally all was ready. The corner stone was put on rollers and pushed into place by hand. Then the workmen withdrew. The three Directors uncovered their heads and, laying each a hand on the stone, they prayed silently and repeated the Lord's Prayer in unison.

So the simple ceremony was performed at close of day, alone with God; and, as Mrs. Eddy had quoted in a letter on this subject, "His voice was not heard in the street." The sun, which had been behind the clouds for three days, burst forth in brightness just at this moment and shone upon the corner stone.

And they gave the money, being told, into the hands of them that did the work, . . . to the carpenters and builders, that wrought upon the house of the Lord. 2 KINGS xii. 11.

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair. 2 CORINTHIANS iv. 8.

OON after the laying of the corner stone, the absent Director returned from Pennsylvania, with a portion of the ironwork for the first floor. He had been absent two weeks. After watching the manufacturing process day and night he had followed the iron from point to point on its journey, tracing its entire course to the last change, and had thus prevented the freight car from being sidetracked or otherwise hindered. The arrival of this iron proved that each single demonstration, each effort to be obedient, makes the next step possible.

Larger foundation stones had been used than the contract required, and this necessitated the floor beams being made correspondingly shorter. The alteration was noticed in time for the architect to make a new drawing, which he forwarded to the Boston iron contractor; he in turn sent the sketch

to the Pennsylvania mill, but without instructions as to what it signified. He then informed the architect that, as the beams were already rolled, their recutting would cost twenty-five dollars. The statement was incorrect, for the ironwork had not yet been touched.

A month later, when the work was really done, no attention was paid to the altered measurements on the architect's last drawing; consequently, when the beams arrived they were found to be too long. This caused delay, but the difficulty was overcome by chipping off the stone so as to allow the beams more space in the wall.

Meantime the Directors were being troubled by another problem. The building fund was still insufficient to guarantee all the contracts required for different parts of the church, but it was now time that plans should be settled and agreements made for the entire work. From this time to the end these questions were constantly to be considered: what section must next be built in order to protect and strengthen what is already done? what work must be put in at the same time other parts are being con-

structed? what contracts will require most time for obtaining necessary materials? Most urgent of all was this question: what can be paid for?

There should be a contract for the roof in order that the iron frame be made in time and the roofer have his materials ready for finishing as soon as the walls were up. As fast, therefore, as the necessary amount was in the hands of the treasurer contracts were signed to meet the more pressing demands, the Directors now making each individual agreement themselves so as to bring matters more under their immediate care and avoid all possible mistakes or delays.

Near the end of June it became evident that the iron columns for the support of the auditorium and galleries would be needed very soon, and the builders were so notified. This iron, like the floor beams, was included in the original "great contract" and had been sublet to some Massachusetts manufacturers. After much urging, several columns were delivered, but upon examination they proved to be altogether unfit for use. The company insisted that they were good and refused to replace them. The

Saint John on the Island of Patmos

...1912 by The Christian Science Publishing Society

first week in July the columns were furnished, but the city inspector of buildings, who examined every part of the work as it progressed, condemned the entire lot. Nevertheless, the firm still claimed that their castings should be accepted.

It was the middle of July. There was no prospect of continuing the work under two weeks; if the order were to be duplicated from the same mill, the delay might be indefinite. Another firm was found which agreed to furnish this iron to our contractors in two weeks. Even then, when the columns were delivered, several days more must be spent in setting them up and laying the beams upon them so that the work on the walls, which had come to a standstill, could be resumed. This at the best meant nearly a month of lost time.

During the delay practically nothing was done. All the workmen left except two or three stonelayers and one bricklayer. The iron foundry was prompt, however; and before the specified time enough columns were ready so that the work could begin again.

The building advanced rapidly for a time but it

was not long before progress was again impeded. The floor beams were slow in coming, and many were not drilled in the proper places. To rectify all this was slow work, and the weary days dragged on through August and September. Once more the same Director was sent to Pennsylvania, where he remained till he saw all the iron of the contract manufactured and shipped. There was, therefore, no more hindrance from this quarter except for the cutting and fitting of the beams.

The discontent of the masons was causing great inconvenience. It was customary for masons to be paid weekly, but the contractors sometimes neglected to provide the money as often as once in two weeks. When the men threatened to quit work, the builders would have let them go but in order to prevent delays the Directors advanced the amount. On one occasion the money to pay the men was collected from the Christian Science students who happened to be on the premises. After this the Directors reserved a sufficient sum from their monthly settlement with the contractors to ensure the wages of the laborers.

The iron frame was to have been placed on the roof between August 20 and September 10 but at this period the walls were very far from completion, nor was the roofer ready with his iron. A railroad strike in Chicago had cut off from the mills their supply of coal so that the metal could not be molded when promised.

Not until the last of September did the roof iron begin to arrive. It was hoped the frame would be set up in a few days but in this as in so many other things there was disappointment. The contractor found many excuses for postponement and when he finally announced himself ready to begin, two weeks were spent in erecting scaffolds and derricks. At last, after all these tedious delays which seemed so unnecessary to the Directors, the roof work was fairly under way and the contractor was urged to add to his force until he had as many men on the building as could be profitably employed.

At every step difficulties multiplied and affairs became more and more complicated till the completion of the church within the time specified seemed impossible. The struggle grew harder and more

hopeless, to human sense, as each day brought its added burden as if one must make a journey upon which life depended, yet could find no train; when that was found or built, no engine; then, no coal, no track, and so on, with impediments multiplying almost beyond imagination. Nevertheless, the Directors knew that God was directing Mrs. Eddy and would not demand the unachievable of so faithful a servant. This knowledge and faith gave them strength to press on; as the children of Israel looked to Moses to lead them safely through the wilderness, so they had confidence that God would, through their Leader, show the way out of this apparently desperate condition.

It was clear that if the church was to be completed in 1894 the final contracts for the interior should be made at once; yet no liability could be incurred beyond the limits of the money on hand which was not yet sufficient to finish the structure. Those who knew nothing of these conditions insisted that all contracts be closed at once but the Directors, striving to be faithful to their trust and to their own

highest sense of right, continued to follow the wise guidance of God's chosen one.

All this time the author had hoped for some way of escape from what seemed such an impossibility as to finish the church within the appointed year, but after a visit to Mrs. Eddy and a brief conversation about the building his doubts vanished forever. Like Elisha's servant when his eyes were opened, he saw that "they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (2 *Kings* vi. 14–17), and from this hour he knew as an absolute certainty that, whatever the seeming, *the work would be done!*

On October 18 our Leader requested one of the Directors to take especial charge of the work and give it all his time.

For a month past three workmen had been engraving an inscription on the pink granite tablet built into the circular wall of the tower. On October 20 the work was completed, and the boards of the staging were knocked off so the words could be seen. The first sight of this inscription was most impressive even to those who knew how it was to read:

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST.
ERECTED ANNO DOMINI, 1894.
A TESTIMONIAL TO OUR BELOVED TEACHER, THE REVEREND MARY BAKER EDDY;
DISCOVERER AND FOUNDER OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE; AUTHOR OF ITS TEXT-BOOK,
SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES; PRESIDENT OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS METAPHYSICAL COLLEGE, AND THE FIRST PASTOR OF THIS DENOMINATION

During this month a contract for stained glass was concluded with the firm that seemed best able to bring out the ideas of Christian Science in this direction. One of the contractors had spent some time in Europe visiting the great churches. He showed much interest in developing designs for interior decoration and was employed by the Directors to procure samples of material from the different dealers in order to determine a color scheme that would harmonize with the glass. There were brought together samples of carpets and material for cushions, marble for dado, baseboard and stairs, besides specimens of the wood which had already been ordered for the pews, and fresco designs for which estimates had been submitted. The tints for all materials were chosen at this meeting.

Less easy was a decision about the flooring, and for some time it seemed impossible to decide what

Angel with the "little book"

should be used. Mosaic was desired for floors as well as dados; but this was not only more costly than wood, but required more time,—now an important consideration. At the last possible moment enough money came in to warrant a choice of the preferred material. The contractor would not promise his work in less than two months, even including extra night hours, and even after the Directors had agreed to his estimates there was a suspense of several days while he was considering whether, after all, he would undertake the job.

As the time grew shorter more and more questions pressed for settlement, each seeming more difficult than the last. Funds were still insufficient, and great care was needed for the wise expenditure of what contributions the treasurer held.

The interior of the building showed nothing but rough brick walls, bare iron floor beams and dreary piles of *débris;* while mechanics and builders were declaring that it would require six months' more work to make the place ready for use.

Under this pressure the Directors struggled on

through October and came to November, while everything seemed to be saying: "You cannot finish the church in 1894!"

All these months there was beautiful weather with scarcely any rain,—a remarkable season. On the morning of November 6 the church, unprotected by roof, floor or window, was full of snow,—the earliest that had fallen in the city for many years. From this time on, though the work never ceased, the weather was frequently something to contend against.

Yet, confronted by this fearful array of material evidence, the Directors pushed on with unfaltering trust in the divine omnipresent power of God.

HELP AND SHELTER

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. PSALM xci. 1, 2.

THE contract for heating and ventilating apparatus was given to Edward P. Bates, C.S.D., of Syracuse, New York, who, after arranging his own business, placed his whole time at the service of the Directors. The offer was accepted, and from November 12 till the building was entirely finished, he, with Mrs. Bates, remained in Boston constantly. As Mr. Bates had had much experience in building and his wife also was familiar with the technicalities of architectural plans, they proved invaluable assistants, bringing into the work fresh ideas as well as new courage.

As one result, another architect, with his draughtsman, was employed to assist in improving the interior designs, the former leaving his office in Hartford, Connecticut, in order to give his entire attention to our church.

Besides the one woman who was already giving her time to the work, Mrs. Caroline W. Frame, C.S.B., of New York City, and Mrs. Emilie B. Hu-

lin, C.S.B., of Brooklyn, New York, were called to Boston to assist our progress. They devoted themselves to selecting furniture and fittings for "Mother's Room." All questions must be deferred to the Directors for final decision, yet their taste and experience in house furnishing was of great value. They also looked after the windows, to urge the work forward, see that the subjects were properly brought out, and that all was made harmonious.

The original plan had been to finish the auditorium and "Mother's Room" in wood; but now marble was suggested, and the arched entrance to "Mother's Room" was designed. It was also decided to raise the ceiling of the auditorium three feet and omit the plastered beams and panels as first designed.

The contract for roofing included terra cotta, ready roofing of paper, slate, and copper guttering; the terra cotta work had been let to the same firm which was to attend to the fireproofing of the floors. The foreman for all this business was a man of great executive ability who took much interest in the building.

As soon as the iron roof frame was in place the roofer was daily urged to employ more help, in order to hasten this most needed part of the building. He began with only two or three men, and even after a week's continued urging only a few more had been employed. The foreman then explained that he had engaged thirty different men during this time but as soon as they were required to go on the roof they seemed stricken with fear. Some would go up only to come down immediately and slip away without a word; others would not even mount but only look up at the roof and then walk off. When the Directors learned this fact the difficulty was overcome, and in two days all the men needed were at work.

While the terra cotta did not wholly exclude rain, still it made quite a shelter; and it was therefore a surprise to find that the roofers, after laying the blocks from the summit down to within five feet of the gutter, ceased work, leaving this space uncovered all around the building. On inquiry it appeared that the architect had been persuaded by the roof contractor to change the plans for the gutters. This

change would require extending the entire iron frame five feet and meant several weeks' delay. The new arrangement was countermanded at once, and the contractor ordered to begin again on the original plan which he himself had approved when the contract was made.

Once more work was resumed but again ceased. The contractor claimed that if the blocks were laid to the outer edge of the roof the water would thereby be conducted into the walls where it would freeze and throw them down. The Directors were unwilling to accept this excuse and two of them went at once to the office of the roofing company to see about having the work finished according to agreement.

The company was one of the oldest and most reliable in Boston. During the conversation with the members present every argument and excuse they could bring forward,—in regard to weather, for example,—was so answered that at last the senior partner had to admit that the work could continue without interruption and even promised to be at the

Woman God-crowned

church himself the next morning to see that operations were resumed. There were still many difficulties to overcome before the roof was finished but nothing else caused so much delay.

The Director in charge, with his assistants, now found it necessary to oversee the work continually, and remained on the premises all day and a part of the night. By the middle of November the roof was closed in with terra cotta, and window openings were covered with canvas. The interior was heated by stoves and lighted with electricity so that work might continue until midnight or even later.

It was in the evening that most of the fireproofing was laid in the floors and concreted over,—first in the auditorium and then in the vestry. The only risk in laying these floors before the roof was complete was that water might drip through upon them and freeze, but this never occurred. These hollow terra cotta bricks, about ten inches long by six in width and thickness, are not only fireproof, but are very light and strong. The blocks are cemented together between the iron beams of the floor frame

resting on its flanged edges, and in twenty-four hours, when the cement has set, are solid and capable of resisting great pressure.

One morning, when after a long struggle plenty of men were at last on hand for the work on the floors, one of the masons looked up and exclaimed: "Well, sir, I believe you'll get it done!" He meant that the church would be ready for use at the appointed time. This was in a dark hour, when even those from whom testimony opposed to the senses was expected, lacked faith to voice an assurance such as this. Many students, visiting the place, would look blankly at the bare walls and say: "You can't get it done, can you?"

Like a message from heaven came the following lines, quoted by Mrs. Eddy to lighten these heavy days and increase our confidence in her perpetual elevation above the clouds of sense:

Friday, 10 a.m., November 23, 1894.

To the C. S. Board of Directors

When the mists have risen above us,
As our Father knows His own,
Face to face with those who love us,
We shall know as we are known.
Love, beyond the Orient meadows,
Floats the golden fringe of day;
Heart to heart we bide the shadows,
Till the mists have cleared away.

MOTHER.

In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire. PSALM lxxviii. 14.
So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state. 2 CHRONICLES xxiv. 13.

THE ready roofing being laid over the terra cotta and the gutters cemented with pitch, the roof was practically water-tight and could thus stand for months. While the slate and copper were being put on there were several heavy rains and some snow; yet this caused no uneasiness as the work on the interior could continue without hindrance. Neither was the finishing of the exterior delayed by the weather, for, through all the wind and storm of November and December the work advanced steadily, although sometimes the roofers were obliged to shovel off the snow before beginning their daily work.

As soon as the roof would keep out water and the walls were in a proper condition it was expected that the plasterer would set his men to work without waiting for other parts of the church to be finished; but this was not in accord with his ideas for he expected to have the building exclusively to himself

for some eight weeks. Valuable time was lost over this point, and but little accomplished.

Meantime the iron frame for the vaulted ceiling was getting into place. As fast as one part was prepared it was desirable that the wire lathing should at once be added in order to make ready for plastering. The contractor being still reluctant to work in what seemed to him so irregular a fashion, here was more delay; but at length he agreed to let his men work one night, with extra wages assured and the Directors furnishing light and heat. The arrangement was that as many men as feasible should be set to work on the auditorium ceiling which would be the longest job, the strips under the galleries having already been plastered at intervals when other mechanics were not in the way.

The night selected was Saturday, December 8, with the hope that the work would be finished before morning and the plaster dry during the Sunday following. Scaffolding had been put up a day or two before; so, when the plaster was provided, there was nothing more to do but mix it with water and apply it to walls and ceiling. A patent preparation which

dries very quickly was to be used. It is powdered like flour and can be brought into a building in bags and piled up ready for use.

On Saturday morning the contractor agreed to have enough material on hand to begin work by five in the afternoon, but about three o'clock, when at least seventeen tons of dry plaster were expected, one lone team drove up through the dismal rain and fog and stopped at the church. Upon inquiry it was learned that no arrangement had been made for delivering more than this one load of four tons.

Something must be done at once or all this labor and planning to save a few hours' time would be lost. The Directors tried immediately by telephone to find out if this driver could not be allowed to bring another load, but after half an hour's waiting for a clear line word came that the team could not be out any longer.

Effort was then made to communicate with the plaster warehouse and, after more delay, the agent was reached just as he was locking up for the night. "You must be insane!" was his first reply over the telephone to a request that sixteen tons more of

Earthen Vessels

plaster be sent at once. After some explanatory debate, he went out to look for teams and shortly returned to the wire with the welcome message that three teams more were already loaded and a fourth team would be soon on the road. By nine o'clock all the bags were lying on the church floor.

Unless the plasterers could work the full hours agreed upon they refused to do anything, but before time for the long labor to begin it was known that more material was coming, and at five o'clock there were fifteen men mixing the plaster and some fifteen more ready to put it on. All seemed inspired with energy and activity, and spectators long acquainted with such work declared they had never seen plasterers cover space so rapidly and so well. The workmen themselves were amazed at what was accomplished. The Scientists in charge remained to encourage and cheer every effort, and by morning two coats of plaster were on the auditorium. Thus was a great victory won.

Monday, December 10, the finishing touches were put on the ceiling, and Thursday of the same week the painters began to do their part.

Speaking the truth in love, may [we] grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

EPHESIANS iv. 15, 16.

FROM the middle of September to December 1, the great problem to be solved had been, How can it be managed so that mechanics of different trades shall work together simultaneously on the church? This must be done if the building was to be finished in 1894; yet each contractor in turn expected and demanded to have the place cleared of all workmen except his own. When the Directors asked any one contractor to go to work while others were still busy, each declared it impossible. In every case this caused a delay of two or three days. Then each contractor would agree to make the trial, while the Directors on their part promised to see that no other contractor interfered.

The staging for the iron roof frame was erected, and work begun on the roof, before the walls were finished. Next the plumbers, who like all the other

contractors were behind with their work, began operations. As soon as the roof frame was in place, men began putting on the terra cotta blocks and other roofing materials at the same time the terra cotta slabs and concrete were being laid for the floors. When a part of the floor blocks were laid and concreted over the mosaic work was commenced, and while these various undertakings were getting under way the iron frame for the ceiling was being put up, and still other contractors were finding places for their men.

The mosaic was laid around the bottoms of the heavy posts that upheld the staging for the ceiling work. As fast as a part of the iron was in place this staging was removed and the spaces where the posts had stood were filled in with mosaic.

Bits of mud and iron, and occasionally a tool, would fall from the hands above, but nobody below was in the least injured.

The only accident that occurred during the building was to a painter, who stepped through a hole in the unfinished vestry floor and sprained his ankle. A Christian Scientist came at once to his aid and

relieved him of pain. His contracting employer, however, fearing there might be damages to pay, insisted that the man be sent to the railroad station in a cab and return to his home in the suburbs where he resided about ten minutes' walk from the station. The next morning he was able to run to catch his train in order promptly to resume his place.

As the work progressed with wonderful rapidity, other mechanics began their labor, side by side with those already busy, until, by December 1, every industry having aught to do with building the church was represented there, making a force of some two hundred men. To keep them moving together harmoniously meant rapid and continuous action by those in charge. No one set of laborers must be allowed to fall behind lest this disturb some other set and bring the work to a standstill, for the men could labor together only in proportion as the work of each separate trade was kept out of the way of that following.

The Director in charge who had full authority to decide any question must every few minutes visit all parts of the work as it advanced because the differ-

ent gangs of men all protested at working in company and were held together only by the Directors' promise that one trade should not interfere with or trespass on the rights of another.

Questions were continually arising as to how this or that should be done. One change would often necessitate another, and in connection with the question of how something should be done was always the underlying question of expense.

It is certainly worthy of note, as showing that the power of Mind was really building our church, that these solutions of mechanical difficulties—often accomplished by one without experience in this particular branch of labor and with no architectural plan at hand for consultation—were always accepted by the workmen, and proved satisfactory.

Although, as has just been said, the matter of cost had always to be considered,—and this necessity continued until the award of the very last contract,—yet it should be stated that the question of money scarcely affected the building of the church. Beginning with October, the treasurer was advised to tell no one what funds were on hand. Even the

Directors could only ask him, Can such or such a thing be afforded? But, as often happened, while the Directors were deciding which material or design to choose, enough money would be received during the time of deliberation to render the price no longer a prime consideration and leave them free to adopt the most appropriate, though sometimes the most expensive, suggestion. The last month's contributions were very generous but the Directors were careful of expense until the very end.

The municipal permit for using the streets bounding the church lot included only the Falmouth Street side. The way on the north side, now called Norway Street, had not then been accepted by the city but it was lawful for the contractors to use one half the width of this street for unloading, mixing cement, and preparing other materials. At a time when loads were arriving hourly and every foot of space was needed, Norway Street was accepted by the city, a contract was made for a sewer pipe to be laid, and the builders were ordered to move their effects immediately. Much of the work had therefore to be abandoned for a few days till arrange-

ments could be made for workmen and materials in the narrow limits of Falmouth Street.

The laborers who had been busy on this side thought themselves already overcrowded, and when called upon to share their space with the workmen from Norway Street they set up a strong protest; but the Director in charge, knowing that in divine Mind no man can encroach upon his neighbor, assured the men they need fear no interference or molestation. Soon all found places, and the work went on as smoothly as if each mechanic had the street to himself. The Director thanked God for deliverance and took courage.

To give some idea of what was done during the month of December besides the superintendence of the work, the following list of contracts is given, with the dates when they were signed:

Decorations, December 5.
Vestry chairs, December 5.
Marble, December 6.
Pulpit, and the furniture for "Mother's Room," December 7.
Electric fixtures, December 8.
Marble for "Mother's Room," December 12.

Stereo-relief work, December 13.
Sidewalk, December 14.
Bronze torches and brackets, December 18.
Onyx mantel for "Mother's Room," December 20.

From the first of December to the morning of January 6 no busier place than our church could have been found in Boston. The whole structure, within and without, was alive with workmen. Heavily loaded teams were arriving at all hours during the day and far into the night and the creak of wheels and derricks was constantly heard as roofing materials, brick and stone were being raised by hand or steam to roof and tower. Plaster, paint, glass and other materials for interior finish, were being carried up the long planks through the church door, and to all these indications of activity were added the calls from workmen above, giving orders and directions, answered by those beneath.

Inside the building from boiler room to auditorium ceiling a still more active scene met the eye, if that were possible. Concrete was being mixed and spread in one part, mosaic laid in another; the painter followed close after the plasterer; the plumber, the

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Mary the Mother of Jesus

electrician and workmen putting in the heating and ventilating apparatus mingled with the others; a constant stream of laborers clattered up and down the unfinished stairs, carrying in new material or taking out rubbish.

Every workman seemed to feel the importance of punctually finishing the work. Among the different contractors and their gangs of employees there was never a word of dispute. On the contrary, it was remarkable how carefully each artisan recognized the rights of every other. Side by side with artists setting delicate pieces of colored glass were those chiseling and hammering the metal casements or the iron staircases. The beautiful onyx mantel was put up in the "Mother's Room" at the same time that rougher work was being done, yet nothing was injured and no man interfered with his neighbor.

About the middle of December, the auditorium was filled with the scaffolding for the plasterers, and on every stage of it men were busy plastering, painting, decorating and fitting in the sunburst and windows. The mosaic floor had been laid but was covered with heavy paper and boards to prevent soiling

from paint and plaster. The dado was being set, with marble baseboard and cap. Gallery posts were being wire-lathed and plastered. The stereo-relief contractor had just begun his work. Electric fixtures were being put in, doors fitted and hung, and terra cotta laid in the gallery. Everybody seemed in earnest, anxious to accomplish as much as possible. The buzzing of the sawing machine, cutting metal for window frames, the clank of steel tools upon the stairs, the pounding of wooden hammers on mosaic floors,—these were the sounds that rose above the general hum of activity.

Surely it can be said that no other building was ever erected in such a way. When Solomon built his temple the men who wrought were personally interested therein and worldly wealth was at their service, but in our church all things material seemed opposed to its advancement.

In this harmonious working of the trades, and the earnest effort to finish on time was recognized the hand of our heavenly Father, turning back the armies of the aliens, bringing to naught the plans of the wicked, and revealing Himself as divine Prin-

ciple, governing human affairs. It was a new demonstration of the oneness of divine Mind and the universal brotherhood of man; of the nothingness of material, and the omnipotence of spiritual law, as taught in Christian Science.

TESTIMONIAL WINDOWS AND OTHER GIFTS

And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. ISAIAH liv. 12.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. REVELATION xix. 7.

OON after the work on the building was fairly started, different churches and societies in our ranks, as well as individual students, began to ask for the privilege of paying for special objects. This was granted, but on condition that the money for such purposes be turned over to the treasurer of the building fund and the gifts be subject to whatever changes Mrs. Eddy or the Directors might think necessary.

In this way were purchased doors, dado for stairways and vestibules, electric fixtures, mosaic floors, marble treads for the vestibule steps, marble window sills, cushions and platform, the pulpit and its furnishings, with handsome copies of the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," Mrs. Eddy's chair, to be kept on the rostrum, contribution baskets with extension handles invented

by the giver, and the tubular chime of fifteen bells. The concert grand Steinway piano for the vestry was the donation of one young lady, but the chief single benefaction, costing several thousand dollars, was the organ,—one of the finest in Boston,—a tribute of gratitude from a gentleman whose wife had been healed through Christian Science.

In the middle of November a student came from the West to see about furnishing the church with bronze doors, but the expense was so much more than he expected that after a week's investigation the project was abandoned and the money given for a window and the general fund.

A well lighted auditorium had been especially desired by the Directors as one of the chief characteristics of the church, but as it became evident that the painted figures and colored glass would admit only a dim and subdued light, some further means of letting in the sunshine must be adopted. Someone suggested that light be let in from above, but this seemed impracticable. The architect was consulted, as well as others who might have ideas on the subject, and as the roof had not yet been con-

structed, the plans were examined to ascertain where an opening could be made. It was found feasible, with slight additional expense, to insert a skylight, measuring ten feet by twenty, directly above the auditorium ceiling.

What could be used in the ceiling itself to let through the light thus secured from the roof above? This was the next question, for such an adjunct must not only be ornamental in itself but harmonize with the decorations of the interior. After many plans had been examined and many suggestions received from artists and students, the beautiful sunburst now in use was selected, with its one hundred and forty-four electric lamps for additional illumination.

To insure still more light and forestall any possible darkening of the windows by the erection of high walls on adjacent lots, the architect planned three light shafts which, though necessarily detracting from the size of the auditorium, really add to its symmetry owing to the peculiar shape of the building. One shaft extends from the roof down behind the organ. The other two shafts are directly behind the two windows representing "Mary First at the

Mary First at the Resurrection

Resurrection" and "Woman God-crowned," and the two smaller windows above them on the gallery level, thus brightening the pictured glass besides diffusing more light through the entire room. It was truly said that there had been brought to the church light from heaven, which no man could take away.

Still another feature adopted to secure more light as well as more beauty, was that of bronze window-frames. The Romanesque style of architecture in which the church is built gives heavy walls and small openings. Heavy wooden casings would not only leave the windows too small for the best delineation of subjects in stained glass, but would also darken the interior somewhat; wooden frames were liable to rapid decay. After full discussion it was determined that all window casings should be of bronze, thus enlarging the area of glass in each window about six inches. Not knowing of any other building supplied with such frames, the contractor made original designs for them.

To secure uniformity of workmanship as well as harmony in color and style, the windows were all

entrusted to the same Boston manufacturers. As the ideas of the designers were often far from the true interpretation of subjects to be brought out in the glazing, the presence of some Christian Scientist was required, who could be relied upon to watch the work daily. Such a person must be quick to catch the spiritual meaning of the Scripture to be illustrated or of the subject chosen to present the thought. This was not all, for skilled artisans would not willingly accept directions from an outsider, and wisdom must be used or the workmen would refuse to proceed. The Directors wished to express in the designs the spiritual thoughts taught by Christian Science, while the artists attempted to follow traditional religious views as well as preconceived notions of art; and their material beliefs, inculcated by the popular theories of the day, constantly conflicted with the spiritual idea. One artist said, "I see that your windows *mean* something!" thus recognizing the difference between ordinary requirements and those now demanded.

A number of window subjects were chosen by Mrs. Eddy, while others were selected by the donors

or the Directors. The first one given as a testimonial was the rose window at the left of the platform, representing "The Raising of Jairus' Daughter," which was partly copied from a plate in one of the early editions of Science and Health. In the six lower sections, palms and lamps signify light, intelligence and victory.

The Directors' rose window, on the right side of the pulpit, was the next to be designed. In a conversation with Mrs. Eddy early in the summer she spoke of the four-sided city as described by Saint John. As there were four Directors this suggested to them the idea of their giving the other rose window to the church and using "The New Jerusalem" as the theme. After careful study of the subject in connection with the beautiful spiritual interpretation of "the holy city, . . . coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband," as found on page 574 of our textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," the figures for the window were selected.

The definite outlines of the proposed window were not taken into consideration when this design

from the Apocalypse was thought out, and the window had been planned without regard to any subject. Now, upon examination of the drawing, the Directors found a wonderful harmony between their ideas and the plan of the window.

This circular window was divided into two rows of twelve openings each; the outer panes separating the circle into segments, while each inner light had the shape of a keystone or sustaining wedge of an arch, sometimes supposed to be the stone designated by the psalmist as "the head stone of the corner." Twelve was a most significant number for the purpose; and, by dividing the segments into four groups of three each, there was one cluster to represent each side of the celestial city. In the central pane of each triplet was placed the main symbol of the group with explanatory figures in the two panes flanking it. The four main figures were the Bible, or Word of God; the Madonna and Child, representing Jesus; the Southern Cross, standing for Christianity; the Golden Shore of Love, symbolizing Christian Science. In the twelve lights of the outer circle were as many stars, also arranged in four clusters of three

Window of the Open Book

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lights each, one larger star and two smaller ones for each division.

The rounded central light was the proper place for an open "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." This suggested the name "Window of the Open Book," signifying that the radiance from this new revelation shows the meaning of all the Bible promises and prophecies, as symbolized by the figures surrounding the center.

The architect's plan for this window further included six long lower lights which would come below the line of the gallery. The six water pots chosen for these places typify the six days of material creation included in the belief that man has a material origin and existence. They also call to memory the marriage in Cana with its spiritual lessons, teaching that, as mortals empty themselves of error through the understanding of Truth, they are being prepared for union with divine Principle, as shown in Christian Science.

This rose window has been symbolically read from top to bottom. Reversing this order the eye rises from the water pots, representing mortal con-

sciousness, to rest upon the cross; then on, past Science and Health, to the topmost ring of lights, where the woman is standing upon the moon. So in our human experience: "We have this treasure in earthen vessels," as stated in 2 *Corinthians* iv. 7; then we gradually rise by way of the cross till through Christian Science man as the divine idea of God is fully realized.

The other windows are here mentioned in their order of presentation. One of the finest in the church is a double window, "The Resurrection of Lazarus." Its rare perspective, made still more striking by the stone mullions and clasping irons, gives it an appearance of being outside the wall, as if one were gazing upon a scene of light and color beyond.

The designers wished to omit the wolf and the lamb from the Isaiah window in the vestibule, thinking that so many figures would be inartistic, but when the spiritual meaning was explained they saw at once that these types were most necessary.

The design first submitted for the Apocalyptic angel with the "little book" represented the seraph as standing on what were intended for pillars of fire,

Resurrection of Lazarus

but which looked like red bricks, and wearing materially feathered wings,—which useless appendages the artist could hardly be persuaded to eliminate.

"Saint John on the Island of Patmos," a double window, was copied from an Old Bible illustration.

Beside this window is portrayed Jesus with the woman of Samaria as he rested at Jacob's well.

Next in order came the left gallery window, painted with the Bible and Science and Health.

The four windows in the sides of the auditorium, representing subjects proposed by Mrs. Eddy, offer much food for thought. The picture of the Madonna and Jesus shows us woman's thought of God as the Father of all mankind, although expressed as yet in a feeble way. The next window portrays woman anointing Jesus as the ideal man, who now expresses the thought of God's fatherhood in a still higher degree. "Mary First at the Resurrection" signifies that woman is first to perceive the risen man,—that is, to recognize man as above and beyond what are called death and materiality. She has now faintly seen that man is spiritual, and Jesus gives her this message: "I ascend to my Father, and your Father," thus in-

dicating the Master's recognition of her thought.

In a smaller window, above the Magdalene, is depicted an open Bible, whose record closes, as we know, with the prophecy of a God-crowned woman. This woman is the subject of the fourth window of the series, and above it, in a small separate window corresponding to the one where the Bible is painted, is another open volume, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," our textbook.

The woman of the Apocalypse and the teachings of Christian Science together signify that the perfect idea of God and the spiritual universe are revealed; that Christian Science, when understood, also reveals that the prophecy of Saint John is fulfilled and the spiritual idea is the God-crowned woman. In these windows the Bible and Science and Health are shown to be our true pastor and preacher, explaining the way of salvation to all mortals.

There is a peculiar circumstance connected with the arrangement of these windows. Placing them in their present order so that their story might be read from left to right, it was found that the infant Jesus had the best light; the "Anointing of Jesus" came

in almost as good a place; the "Resurrection" window was rather dark; while the "God-crowned Woman," representing the highest revelation of all, had less light than any other window in the church. Thus we may see that while the human Jesus is recognized as the Son of God by many, the risen Christ, or the God-crowned ideal, is as yet but faintly seen.

"MOTHER'S ROOM"

Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. GALATIANS iv. 26.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; . . . let her own works praise her in the gates. PROVERBS xxxi. 28, 31.

N the earliest church plans was included an apartment for the sole use of our beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy, to be known as "Mother's Room;" and soon after the building lot was deeded by her to the first board of trustees, the Christian Science children were organized into a band of Busy Bees, their special aim being the collection of money for this room. Chiefly through the efforts of its organizer, Miss Maurine R. Campbell, five thousand dollars were raised by this "sweet society."

In the early months it seemed as if this apartment must be finished and furnished very simply, as the Bees had gathered only a few hundred dollars, but November brought a different outlook. It was decided to appropriate the adjoining alcoves on either side for retiring rooms, and one beautiful idea followed after another like the feet of messengers bringing good tidings to Zion. Very elaborate decorative

"A Little Child Shall Lead Them"

designs were proposed but Mrs. Eddy desired that her room be adorned more simply and less expensively, though willing that its finishing should correspond with the rest of the building. The result could hardly be more harmonious or appropriate.

The room is located on the auditorium stage of the tower and opens directly into the vestibule. The entrance as originally planned did not satisfy the Directors, and after several consultations the architect was requested to design a marble archway more in harmony with "Mother's Room." Early in December a plan was approved, and the marble, which was to be of the finest Italian, worked with great care, was ordered with the other marble.

In preparation, the opening for the doorway was widened on either side and the wall above cut out to the ceiling of the main vestibule, so that when the arch arrived the workmen began immediately to set it. The parties who took the contract for this work were very competent and had command of the best facilities. On a Friday, at six in the afternoon, the upright sections of the arch were in place to the finely carved cornice. To complete the task before

Sunday seemed an impossibility, yet this was what those in charge had resolved upon. The workmen were asked how long it would take, and the reply was, "It is six days' work to set and finish the arch ready to fill in around it."

Arrangements were made with them to labor on continuously till the job was ended. The Scientists remained in the building that night to render all assistance possible, and a midnight meal was furnished the workmen. At six o'clock the next morning, in exactly twelve hours instead of six days, the arch was completed, and in an hour or two more the mason had filled in the wall around it with brick.

Two coats of plaster were then applied immediately to the newly set brickwork, and the painter followed with two coats of paint, matching perfectly the vestibuled walls which had been painted several days previously. This work was all done by six o'clock Saturday afternoon.

The archway leads by five marble steps into a small lobby, brightened by electric lamps artistically hidden behind the high cornice. The light illu-

minates the vaulted ceiling, and reflects a soft color from the rose tinted walls upon the white door with its golden knob. Above the door, in letters of gold on a white marble tablet, is the word Love. Near the ceiling on each side are three small stained glass casements, admitting enough light from two outside windows in the two dressing rooms to bring out the glazed colors and enhance the general effect. Inlaid with different colored stones in the mosaic landing before the door, may be read:

Mother's Room[1] The Children's Offering

The thoughts leading to these arrangements came one by one to the individual Scientists overseeing the work and seemed like inspirations from Love. Mrs. Eddy herself gave many helpful suggestions relative to all parts of the work, especially to decorations.

The following letter shows the source of two beautiful features connected with the entrance just described.

[1] In 1904 in accordance with Article xxii, Sec. 1, of the Church Manual, the title "Mother's Room" was changed in the mosaic to "Rev. Mary B. Eddy's Room."

Pleasant View,
Concord, N. H., Dec. 11, 1894.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE DIRECTORS

MY beloved Students, Permit me to make this request relative to the Mother's Room, and if you think best grant it. On the marble floor at the entrance engrave the word, Mother; and on the arch above the word, Love.

Ever affectionately yours,
MARY BAKER EDDY.

The apartment itself is fifteen feet in width and eighteen in length, measuring from the door to the middle of the bay. Here the first section of terra cotta flooring was laid. The room was plastered and painted before the tower was roofed, but it was protected from the weather by the bell-deck, which had been covered with terra cotta, cement and ready roofing.

The baseboard, both for the main room and the adjacent dressing room, is of pure white Italian marble without dark veining. In the toilet room African marble, of Numidian red, is used alike for basin and baseboard, and the water-pipes are gold-plated.

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Ever affectionately yours,
Mary Baker Eddy.

The subjects for the three testimonial windows in "Mother's Room" are taken from "Christ and Christmas," an illustrated poem by Mrs. Eddy. The "Star of Bethlehem" symbolizes the ray of Truth penetrating the darkness of mortal mind. "The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not"; nevertheless it shines on, because it is from that divine source declared by Saint John to be "the life of men."

"Suffer Little Children to Come unto Me" represents the unbiased and innocent child-thought finding and appropriating the revelation of "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," which explains the words and works of Jesus, the prophets and the apostles.

The face of the woman in the central window, "Seeking and Finding," is not a portrait of Mrs. Eddy but is a type which presents the thought of her, searching the Scripture with unalterable trust in the divine wisdom, above and beyond mortal concept. In this sacred search the "Star of Bethlehem," or gleam of Truth, is never lost sight of but shines steadily on the inspired page.

The last contract awarded was for the beautiful mantelpiece, constructed of onyx blocks from Puebla, Mexico, on exhibition at the World's Fair, Chicago, in 1893. Onyx of this opalescent green tint is said to be an object of worship with the Mexican Indians. Though this contract dated from only five days before Christmas, the mantel was in its place by New Year's.

Among the furnishings were many individual gifts. The rug before the fireplace, presented by a woman in the name of a child, was made by the Esquimaux from a hundred eider duck skins.

Other remembrances were an elaborately carved imported chair, an onyx table, a large china lamp and shade, the desk lamp shade, an Assyrian bridal veil, jardinière and cloissonné clock, two water colors by an English artist, valuable vases, bookmarks and embroideries, a sofa pillow covered with white and gold tapestry, matching the other furniture, an Athenian hanging lamp two centuries old. Silvery green plush draperies and antique Persian rugs of similar tint harmonized with the delicate frescoing of the walls. A little onyx beehive contained the

names of twenty-eight hundred Busy Bees. Everything was provided for the beloved Leader's actual occupancy, as witness such tokens as a handkerchief, a tiny pincushion, dressing gown, slippers and every needful toilet article.

Loving touches still continue to be added to this room, and ever will be, as long as hearts turn in gratitude to the one who gave her life for them and the world.

One of the latest additions was a gift from Mrs. Eddy herself to the church,—a large oil painting, measuring six feet by five, of the little rocking-chair, covered with black haircloth, in which she sat while writing Science and Health. It would seem impossible for such a room as this to afford space for so large a picture but the arrangement is so skillful as to increase the beauty of both. The picture rests on the floor and is lighted by electric lamps fastened on the upper edge of the frame and concealed by green draperies. The effect of the painting, so placed, is to enlarge as well as enrich the room for it is so realistic that, looking at it, one seems to be gazing into another apartment.

On a bookmark given by two little girls are printed some lines from Whittier which express the thought of many who enter this room:

And so I find it well to come,
For deeper rest, to this still room;
For here the habit of the soul

. . . . .

Feels less the outer world's control;
And from the silence, multiplied
By these still forms on every side,
The world that time and sense has known
Falls off, and leaves us God alone.

THE FINAL EFFORT

Be strong, . . . saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you.
HAGGAI ii. 4.

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. REVELATION xxi. 3.

MRS. EDDY'S counsel was that the church should be in readiness for public service the last Sunday of the year 1894, as may be seen from the following letter:

Pleasant View,
Concord, N. H., Dec. 19, 1894.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE DIRECTORS—

MY beloved Students, The day is well nigh won. You will soon rest on your arms. Thank God you have been valiant soldiers—loyal to the heart's core. "Who is so great a God as our God"

Present no contribution box on Dedication day. When you know the amount requisite and have received it for finishing the church building—close all contributions and give public notice thereof.

Hold your services in the Mother Church Dec. 30, 1894, and dedicate this church Jan. 6th. The Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" shall henceforth be the Pastor of the Mother Church. This will tend to spiritualize thought. Personal preaching has

more or less of human views grafted into it. Whereas the pure Word contains only the living, health-giving Truth.

With love mother,

MARY BAKER EDDY.

To have the building ready for use by December 30, a mighty effort must be made. Every part of the work must be pushed, and every moment of time utilized. Even then, to human sense the task seemed utterly hopeless. The decorating must be done, and platform and pulpit built. The gallery was as yet hardly begun, the vestry, "Mother's Room," vestibules, Directors' room and other sections of the edifice needed much more labor than seemed possible in ten days. Men must be kept busy every hour when work could be done, day and night. Work on the roof, tower, walls, stairways, metal window frames, glass, plastering, concrete, mosaic, woodwork, painting, marble work, wiring for electric lights, plumbing,—all must be pushed, and no one trade wait for another to move out of the way, if the building was to be used in 1894.

The marble, ordered December 6, had not yet

Pleasant View.
Concord. N.H. Dec. 19, 1894.

Christian Science Directors-

My Colored Students,

The day is quite nigh upon. You will soon rest on your arms. Thanks God you have been valiant soldiers - loyal to the heavenly core.

"Who is so great a God as our God"

Present no contribution box on Dedication day.

When you know the amount requisite and have received it for finishing the church building close all contributions and give public notice thereof.

Hold your services in the Mother Church Dec. 30, 1894. and dedicate this Church Jan. 6th. The Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" shall hence forth be the Pastor of the Mother church. This will tend to spiritualize Thought & Person al preaching too much or less of human rites grafted into it.

Whereas the sacred Word contains only the living health giving Truth

With Love mother

Mary Baker Eddy.

reached Boston. On December 15, there was no one part of the church really completed except the walls; and ventilating flues had yet to be erected on these.

Every step up to this time had been made through demonstration of divine Science, the work of our beloved Leader. Not a point could be carried without her aid for she alone could show the way—God's way—and make it possible to do what mortal sense declared impossible. With this knowledge, those having the work in charge continued to press on in the face of all seeming discouragements, trusting Love to deliver them and enable the workmen to complete the building.

The work on the tower seemed very slow. A steam derrick had been hired to lift the stone and other material and a few days before the walls were finished the roofer tried to make a bargain for the use of this derrick to raise the heavy iron for the tower roof.

Confusion seemed to rise up among the men, and they were unable to come to any agreement on the matter. At this point Mrs. Bates was told of the situation and asked to see what could be done. She went

at once in search of the man who controlled the derrick. He was at the top of the tower. Without hesitation she climbed up to find him, though this meant the ascent of three ladders, each one twenty or twenty-five feet long, set up on loose planks inside the tower wall.

This task was not only accomplished, but she made definite arrangements with the owner to let the derrick for one day to the Directors. The roofers were then notified to have their materials ready on the grounds, and on the appointed day all the iron for the frame and the terra cotta blocks were lifted to the tower platform, the slate and copper being hauled up later by hand.

Mrs. Bates also made a second trip to the bell-deck within a few days, remaining there three hours in order to settle a dispute among the men and keep them at work.

With the masons there had already been some trouble on account of the irregularity of the contractors' payments, and now a new difficulty arose. In addition to the original contract, certain stones were to be removed from the top of the tower, so

that the copper roof might be laid on the bell-deck, and the stones then were to be put back in place. When the original contract was finished, the masons took out the stones as agreed, but refused to replace them. This was a genuine strike, for the men stayed around the place two or three days, not allowing others to finish the work. Tired of so thankless a job, however, they soon retired from the ground and gave no more trouble.

The first day, late in December, that the terra cotta was being laid in the iron frame of the tower roof was very cold and windy, especially at an altitude of a hundred and twenty feet above the level of the street. The Director who had especial charge of the building felt impelled to visit the seven men who were engaged in this work. He accordingly climbed the three ladders inside the tower to the bell-deck, where he saw, swaying almost vertically above in the open belfry between him and the roof frame, a fourth ladder. This ladder was made of two scantlings which had been broken and patched, while several of the strips nailed crosswise for steps had been broken and left unrepaired. When the foot of

this frail ladder was reached, seventy-five feet above the street, the Director's heart failed him, and he said to himself, "I cannot mount." Of course the workmen had used this same means to reach the roof, but they knew by experience what could be done and were used to such undertakings.

After a moment's silent prayer for strength from Mind, he slowly began the ascent. According to sense evidence the support appeared insufficient to bear his weight, with the wind blowing so fiercely through the arched openings of the tower, but he finally reached the roof. Here the wind blew stronger than ever, and it seemed impossible to hold on or even think. Again, in silent prayer and demonstration, harmony was realized and fears were overcome. The roofers were encouraged, and even the wind seemed to be quieter.

The Directors were obliged to look after each contractor to see that he fulfilled his engagements. More than this, they watched every workman lest in the rush some detail be slighted or hindrance arise, for well they knew not an hour could be lost.

The Italian mosaic layers, of whom there were

Mary Anointing the Head of Jesus

separate gangs for dados, floors and borders, were perhaps the most troublesome to deal with because, as they spoke but little English, it was difficult to talk or reason with them. They were usually happy and good-natured, singing about their work, but if any one of them happened to be vexed he and his comrades would threaten to leave.

During the process of building a constant stream of students poured into the church, and every accessible part of the work was visited. This never disturbed the mechanics except in one instance, when, during the last week in December, some strangers stepped on a piece of mosaic bordering, just laid in soft mortar. The work was spoiled, and the Italian, muttering something in his own language, called his assistant and left the building, to be seen no more that day.

The contractor for stereo-relief moldings to be put on the gallery front and cornices had only nine days for his work; but he promised to have it done, or allow his unfinished moldings to be thrown into the street. Another contract remarkable for the short time in which it was fulfilled was that for the pulpit

and for furniture in "Mother's Room," wherein the contractor agreed to have the articles ready in time or forfeit fifty dollars for every day's delay.

The pews were to come from Michigan by Christmas, but the agent, seeing the condition of the edifice in October, did not believe they would be wanted in December and inserted this clause in the contract, "by December 25th, *or as soon as the church is ready*." When the Directors wrote to the manufacturers to hasten the work, they replied that the agent in Boston had informed them that the church would not be ready for two months. The Directors now saw, if the pews were to be in the building by December, that it would be necessary to send someone to the factory who would insist that the work be finished and delivered according to agreement.

Mr. James A. Neal was accordingly despatched to Michigan and when he explained the situation to the manufacturers they put all their force of workmen on this one job. Mr. Neal remained until the pews were made ready and then traced their course to Boston.

When the agent and the man who came from the factory to set up the pews entered the auditorium on Friday before Christmas and saw it full of workmen and scaffolding, they were alarmed for the carload of pews which could not be wisely left at the freight house, yet could not be set up in the church where there was not even room to store them.

That night the workmen stayed until morning, and students, both ladies and gentlemen, came in to help. The whole network of staging was taken down, the rough covering removed from the mosaic, and the floor washed.

When the Michigan man came in on Saturday morning he was astounded at the transformation. Even the architect, who had watched the progress of the work so closely, said that what had been accomplished that night seemed like a miracle. To make room for the seats, all the workmen had been cleared out except one who was fitting the capitals on the pillars. The pew agent refused to go to work until this mechanic was also sent away. No time could be lost in controversy, so the other artisans were dismissed. On Monday he still refused to work, but on

Tuesday he began setting up the pews while other men were busy in the room.

Tuesday was Christmas day, but the work continued as usual.

In order to have the exact shade of plush desired, the covering for the cushions had been ordered directly from Lyons, France. New York upholsterers had pledged themselves to have them ready by the middle of December. It was learned, however, that they had done nothing and would not, before January, so the plush was brought to Boston, and there the cushions were made ready in season.

It had been arranged to lay a sidewalk around the tower entrances; for, as the boiler-room would extend under this part of the walk, it was believed the heat would prevent the cement from freezing. The work was begun Friday, December 28. Saturday night it was not yet finished, and the weather had turned very cold, with a strong wind blowing. There was danger that the wet cement would freeze, and it seemed impossible to continue the work. The Directors hired a tent, and had it stretched over the walk and fastened to the church wall. The big

View of the Interior

. . . . The Christian Science Publishing So. . . .

doors were kept open, and all possible heat was secured from the boilers. The men worked until twelve o'clock, and then watched in the building till morning lest the canvas be blown down, but no injury came, and the sidewalk was ready for use the next day.

The same evening the church was full of students, dusting pews and sweeping floors, and exactly as the clock struck twelve, midnight, the auditorium was ready for Sunday. The first meeting, held December 30, 1894, was a communion service.

So, with Mrs. Eddy encouraging and pointing the way, and with divine Love sustaining, the church was built in the appointed time, and the following notices appeared in the January issue of *The Christian Science Journal:*

NOTICE

THE dedication services of the new building of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts, will be held on the first Sunday in January, the sixth, 1895. An address from our former pastor, the Rev. Mary Baker Eddy, will be read, but she will not be present at these services.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

A Card from Mr. Chase

AS treasurer of the Christian Science Board of Directors, I hereby return sincere thanks to all the donors to the church building fund of The Mother Church, for their most generous contributions, and their prompt responses to all calls sent out. There are ample funds now in my hands to meet all obligations, and all contributions should cease after January 6, 1895, as none can be received which were not subscribed prior to that date.

STEPHEN A. CHASE,
Treasurer.

The last card suggests the following incident from Biblical history:

AND they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much. Exodus xxxvi. 5–7.

CONCLUSION

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

ECCLESIASTES xii. 13.

TO material sense and according to the evidence cognizable thereby man is material with but a vague perception, if any at all, of Spirit and spiritual law. The aim of Christian Science is to show mortals the way out of this false and therefore unreal condition. Science must control every human experience until all is brought into complete subjection to Spirit.

Mortals allow this control and yield to God's government only as they are driven to distrust and doubt the evidence of the material senses, thus becoming willing to abandon these senses and accept and adopt the evidence of Spirit. This usually comes through suffering. First, we allow Christian Science to heal us of physical pain; then, when we have learned something of its teachings, our old theology begins to disappear. As false theories about God and man are dispelled through understanding what God is and man's relation to Him, we begin to see the true nature of sin and how to overcome its claims.

To say that we see this to be true, and accept it as a theory, is not enough. It must be proven by demonstration, and this demonstration must be that which will reach the human consciousness on the plane of its own experiences. If a man is in a pit a hundred feet deep, a rope ninety feet long, though held above by strong and loving hands, can be of no practical benefit to him. This illustrates the impotence of theories in regard to an unknown God and a far-away heaven to be obtained only through death and a personal Saviour.

So, in the history of the spiritualization of human consciousness, the thought of church must be discerned spiritually and yet so manifested that it can be recognized by mortals. Christian Science had proven itself a healer of the sick and now it must show itself the destroyer of false theorems and sin.

When the children of Israel started for the promised land, no doubt they expected to have an easy time as soon as they had turned their backs on their enemies, but in a very short while they found themselves pursued by their foes, and further progress cut off by barriers seemingly insurmountable. Mo-

ses, reflecting more of God than his countrymen, bade them, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." That is, they were to see a demonstration of the power of Mind over matter, of Truth over error.

In building The Mother Church, to stand as a symbol of all the teachings of Christian Science and of all that Christianity implies, the Directors found themselves in a position similar to that of the Israelites when behind them was Pharaoh's army and in front of them the Red Sea.

A great struggle was inevitable. Every material help was withheld until divine Love was sufficiently reflected to meet the opposing error in all its various forms and turn the scale on the side of God and His government. The spirituality and divinity of Christian Science is proven when we learn that it is opposed by all materiality.

A few thousand dollars were raised by great human effort, and land on which to erect a building purchased; but as the money was lost, and the lot about to be sold under foreclosure of mortgage, failure seemed inevitable. Yet this was not true. The one chosen of God to lead mortals out of this dream

of sin and death was not forsaken, but was shown the way to save the land by herself paying the cost, thus bringing victory out of seeming defeat.

Again money was solicited from the students to build a church on this same lot, now in the hands of trustees for this purpose. As soon as enough money was received so that the work might have been begun, a question arose which checked further progress in this direction. Once more error was defeated, the lot was deeded to another board under new and wiser provisions, and the money returned to a new treasurer.

Then came the announcement that the building should be finished in 1894 and the awful struggle,—that is, awful to human sense,—began. Every step must be demonstrated. Error was, or seemed to be, in possession and would yield only as Truth and Love were manifested. Every law of matter seemed opposed. There was lack of means, time was passing, and every human effort proved ineffective. November came, and found no roof on the building, the walls unfinished and snow already on the ground. There were even no suitable plans for interior finish

"Light, Intelligence and Victory"

and but two months in which to complete work that all agreed would require at least six. Yet these difficulties, so insurmountable to the human sense, were as nothing when weighed in the balance with the unchanging demand of Love that the work should be finished within the time specified.

It might be asked in this case, as in that of the children of Israel: Did God plan that these innocent and confiding people should come into such difficulties, merely to show His power in leading them out? This could never be true of divine wisdom.

The truth is, that as mortals learn something of the nature of evil and make efforts to overcome it, they are then met by its different forms, resisting the demands of good. Then evil shows its true nature by claiming to be something when it is really nothing. The building of this church was to be a triumph for divine Love, and every material means and human dependence must fail, for human sense must "stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord."

Nothing but the hand of divine wisdom could have guided and upheld those entrusted with this responsibility through such a trial of faith as this

was. Neither could they have had this divine assistance but for the nearness to God of the "mother in Israel," which gave her counsel to reflect the one omnipotent Mind to those charged with this great work for God and humanity.

It was a victory for Christian Science, a victory in which every claim of error was met and overcome. Something was accomplished which must be accepted by mortals as a part of the world's history. The fair and impartial accounts of the church, given by the press at the time of the dedication, illustrate this point. Just as a large part of mankind have accepted the lives of Jesus and his apostles as historic facts, however little this may affect their own living; just as proofs of astronomical facts, reversing the evidence of the senses, are universally undenied,—so the erection of this church is so great a demonstration of Christianity and Science as to leave on the world's thought an indelible mark which must be given a place in its history.

Only future ages can fully appreciate and understand the mighty triumph of good over evil, of Spirit over matter, manifested in the circumstances con-

nected with the successful erection of this beautiful building, as given in this historical sketch of The Mother Church in Boston.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

ROM my earliest recollection, when reading the Bible stories of the patriarchs, their success in accumulating an abundance of this world's goods was a source of wonder and speculation as to the reason of their being thus specially favored. Since gaining some knowledge of Christian Science I have learned that it was not because they were specially favored by a personal God, but because of their better acquaintance with and consciousness of true relationship to the one true God. This was beautifully illustrated in the incident recorded when Elisha fed the vast number of people with the barley loaves and full ears of corn, and all did eat and much remained thereof (2 *Kings* iv. 42, 43).

The human mind has made money to be the standard and to determine the value of all things. Paul says "the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 *Tim.* vi. 10), meaning thereby that one who accepts this standard of values partakes of the very essence of mortal mind delusion.

It is often said of Jesus that he was poor so far as material goods were concerned. But was this true? He said of himself, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (*Luke* ix. 58). No doubt Jesus saw that the sensuous age in which he lived would not receive his teachings. Even those he selected as students were not ready to receive all of his teachings. He said, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (*John* xvi. 12). For this reason he could impart his knowledge of God to but a few humble followers. The final establishment of his teaching must come at a later period when the world would be more ready to receive it.

Although he recognized the inability of his students to receive all of his teachings, he knew the time was coming when they would be received and understood; hence he promised the Comforter that should lead "into all truth." This seems a reasonable explanation of why our beloved Master went about "preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere" (*Luke* ix. 6), rather than establishing himself in a

local habitation. But we cannot believe this Man of God, who wore the beautiful seamless garment, unto whom people freely gave of their substance out of gratitude for the healing he had done for them, ever really lacked the material needs and comforts; to say nothing of his ability to feed the multitudes, as recorded of him (*Matt.* xiv. 17–20).

In Christian Science we learn that Spirit is substance, and alone has value or can give value. We reflect this value in proportion as we understand and reflect Spirit. We are enabled to rob matter of its claims of power and to see and handle it as a mere belief or delusion. This is what I understand is meant by establishing "the kingdom of God, and His righteousness."

When the writer first became interested in Christian Science, he lost all interest in business the object of which was money-making. He did not understand the reason for this at that time, but subsequent experience and his growth in Christian Science have taught him that the only real value is Spirit—God; that when we reflect the true substance in our daily lives, our daily needs, both temporal and spirit-

ual, will be bountifully supplied. Christian Science is this Comforter, and has come through the revelation of our beloved Leader, Mary Baker Eddy.

This chapter is written, not for those Scientists who have learned by their own experience and growth in Christian Science how to meet this question, but with a hope that it may help those who must come face to face with this problem of finance, which has caused young students so many bitter struggles.

JOSEPH ARMSTRONG

Written, December 1, 1897

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